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FOR THE UNITED STATES TO DECIDE ON

the merits of the boundary dispute and

commit itself irrevocably to the support

of Venezuela without careful investigation.

This will be secured by the appointment

of a commission, which is, therefore, highly proper at this stage of

the proceeding.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL MESSAGE

Byron said of himself: "I awoke one

morning and found myself famous."

President Cleveland will awake this

morning to find his latest state paper

discussed in two hemispheres and him-

self more popular among his country-

men than ever before. His special

message of the British-Venezuelan

question is a clear, dignified and strong

assertion of the position of the United

States relative to that question in the

European interference in American af-

airs. In connection with Secretary Ol-

ney's note to Lord Salisbury of July

last the two papers constitute the clear-

est exposition and strongest assertion of

the Monroe doctrine that has ever been

made, and commit the government fully

and unequivocally to its maintenance.

The consecutive phases of the case

will be best understood by quoting what

the President said about it in his mes-

sage at the opening of Congress. He

said:

In July last, therefore, a dispatch was

addressed to our ambassador at London,

for communication to the British govern-

ment, in which I became acquainted with

the full and distinctly set forth. The

general conclusions reached and formu-

lated in substance the territorial prob-

lem and established policy of this govern-

ment in relation to a forcible seizure of

territory by another nation. The British

government, in reply, stated that it was

strongly supported by numerous precedents;

that, as a consequence, the United States

was bound to protest against the encroach-

ment of the area of British Guiana in de-

rogation of the rights and against the will of

Venezuela; that, considering the disparity in

strength of Great Britain and Venezuela,

the territory in dispute between them can

be restored only by a large and impartial

arbitration, and that the resort to such

arbitration should include the whole

controversy and is not satisfied if one of

the powers concerned is permitted to draw

an arbitrary line through the territory in

dispute and to declare that it will submit

to arbitration only the portion lying on

the one side of the line. The British

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tion of absurdity in which they have

placed themselves by ignoring the de-

ficits of the revenue in their official pa-

pers to Congress.

HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE.

From an American point of view the

laurels in the Venezuelan correspondence

belong to Secretary of State Ol-

ney. The President's message is digni-

fied, firm and in every respect admir-

able, but, compared with Secretary Ol-

ney's note to the British Premier, it is

as a blue light to a blazing sun. To

what extent the views of the President

may have been influenced by the Secre-

tary, or those of the Secretary shaped

by the President, the public may not

know, but, comparing the President's

message with the Secretary's note, the

latter is by far the stronger and abler

paper of the two. And perhaps its

strength is not its best quality, for no

more patriotic paper ever came from

the State Department, nor any with a

more unmistakable ring of true Ameri-

canism. We have had some Secretaries

of State who could have represented

American ideas and interests as well,

but we have had others who were con-

stitutionally or temperamentally unfitted

to do so.

The press report only summarizes Mr.

Olney's note, but it gives some of the

strong points and passages in full. They

show that he was fully able to cope

with Lord Salisbury on the international

aspects of the case, and whatever his

language lacked in diplomacy was more

than compensated by his vigor and di-

rectness. The closing sentence of

Secretary's note has a significance not

often found in diplomatic correspondence.

After showing that the Monroe

doctrine was really an established na-

tional policy, "with which the honor

and welfare of this country are closely

identified," the Secretary said:

While the measures necessary or proper

for the vindication of the policy are to

be determined by the executive govern-

ment, it is clearly for the executive to

leave nothing undone which may tend to

render such determination unnecessary.

If Lord Salisbury needed any explana-

tion of this sentence he would find it in

that clause of the Constitution of the

United States which says that Congress

shall have power to declare war.

Monday at midnight the Philadelphia

street-car employees resolved that in go-

ing on a strike they would "act like

gentlemen." The president of the na-

tional organization, who had come from

Detroit to instruct the Philadelphia men

as to their rights and to tell them what

to do made a speech in which, says the

dispatch, "he appealed to them, as they

valued success, to be firm, and above

everything else to act like gentlemen."

Before 3 o'clock yesterday a number of

cars had been wrecked, many trolley

wires cut, dozens of motormen and

conductors who offered to work in place

of the strikers had been attacked with

bricks and other weapons and driven

from their posts, and the entire police

force of Philadelphia was occupied in

suppressing violence and making ar-

rests. This only proves what has often

been proved before, that the idea of

conducting a strike in a "gentlemanly"

way is absurd.

Discussion of the Monroe doctrine as

applicable in South America should not

overshadow another phase of the ques-

tion in North America. The British-

Alaskan boundary question is more im-

portant to the United States than the

British-Venezuelan question, because it

involves our interests and honor more

nearly and directly. From all accounts

Great Britain, by running imaginary

lines, establishing mail routes, etc., is

laying a foundation for a claim to a

large affair, Mr. Busch shown with equal

radiance. He held a reception in a room

by himself, he made a speech at the ban-

quet, he beamed on his guests, and, alto-

gether, covered himself with glory. All of

St. Louis was invited to the wedding

outside in the street, and contented itself

with glimpses of splendor and the thought

that this gorgeousness had cost one hun-

dered thousand dollars. The newboys cir-

culated in the crowd shouting, "Here's your

king! Pictures of the Busch family with

names in four languages!" When all was

over St. Louis slept peacefully, sure that

New York and Chicago were not "in it,"

and sure that itself had the cake-wedding

cake.

If New Yorkers are not yet ready to

admit that St. Louis is equal to the en-

tertainment of a national convention, let

them read about the Von Gotard-Busch wedding

in the St. Louis papers. They will have

to acknowledge that the Gould and Vander-

bilt magnificence fades by comparison. A